

3. Remarks

Applicants acknowledge that claims 15, 16, 23-25, 29-32 and 36 are pending in the application with claims 15 and 29 being in independent form. Claims 15 and 29 are presently amended. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, at page 10, lines 12 to 21.

A. §102(e)

Claims 15, 16, 23-25, 29-32 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Galy et al.* (USPN 6,015,554).

Applicants have amended claims 15 and 29 to specify that the growth factor or cytokine used in the method *consists of* flt3-ligand. Therefore, Applicants have restricted the growth factor or cytokine to only flt3-ligand, but still allow room for optional or routine steps, such as rinsing the cells in buffer to remove excess antigen. Applicants believe the open language covering the steps of the claims is necessary to provide any meaningful scope of protection.

In addition, dependent claims 16 and 31 have been amended to specify that the growth factor or cytokine *consists of* flt3-ligand and GM-CSF. Applicants respectfully request the rejection under §102(e) be properly removed.

B. §103(a)

Claims 15, 16, 23-25, 29-32 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Galy et al.* (USPN 6,015,554) in view of *Steinman et al.* (USPN 5,994,126).

As described above, Applicants have amended claims 15 and 29, as well as dependent claims 16 and 31, to distinguish the claimed invention over the cited art and therefore request the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be properly removed.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in light of the amendments and arguments presented above. If the Examiner believes that any issues could be resolved, or if the prosecution of the application could be expedited, by a telephone conference, Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (206) 265-7145.

Respectfully submitted,



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